

of letters received by the Prime Minister from the Members of Parliament from 1.7.1991 to 29.2.1992 was 6412. Out of these, the Prime Minister's Office was required to take action on 1477 letters of them, 839 have been disposed of and 638 are pending. Information required for finalising the pending cases has been called for from different authorities and the individuals concerned.

In addition, there are some letters which are of purely routine nature, on which no specific action is to be taken. However, in all such cases acknowledgements are sent from the Prime Minister to the Members of Parliament concerned. All those letters from Members of Parliament on which action is required to be taken by other ministries/departments are sent to them for examining them and sending appropriate replies to the Members of Parliament concerned.

#### **Collaboration with General Electric Company of USA**

4570. SHRISHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any collaboration between M/s. General Electric Company of USA and Godrej and Boyce manufacturing company for manufacturing refrigerators, washing machines and other goods to be set up at Malanpur in Madhya Pradesh has been cleared;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the factory is likely to be set up and started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): (a) to (c). The Government have recently approved a proposal for Joint Venture between M/s Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing Co. Ltd., Bombay and M/s General

Electric of USA for manufacture of Refrigerators, Compressors, Washing Machines and other White Goods in a new unit in Malanpur (M.P.). M/s General Electric will participate in the equity of the new company to the extent of 40% and the balance equity of 60% will be held by M/s Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing Co. Ltd. M/s Godrej & Boyce have intimated that the completion of the factory will take approximately 24 months.

[Translation]

#### **Committee for Patent Potentialities of Inventions**

4571. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted a committee to find out the patent potentialities of the inventions made in the field to biotechnology;

(b) if so, whether the investigation in this regard has since been completed;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI-MATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Not applicable.

(d) The developments in new biotechnology and their relationship to Intellectual Property Rights are of very recent origin and are still evolving. The Committee assessed the existing information with specific reference to biotechnological inventions in devel-